

Freedom of opinion: last November's fire at the Terra Nova printing shop dealt a serious blow to freedom of the press. The electronic media is always controlled and muzzled by the state. This was seen in the President's recent ban on the broadcasting of CNS debates concerning murders and illegally acquired goods.

Discrimination: Zaire has a form of tribalism drawn along ethnic lines. The Constitution guarantees all Zairians the same rights, but the problem lies in the obstacles to its application to women, namely discriminatory practices, customs and legal provisions.

### CANADIAN POSITION

Canada has been active in its defence of human rights. Our decision not to participate in the Francophone Summit in Zaire was well received by the public in Kinshasa. The Zairians took notice when we decided to suspend cooperation.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Kingsley of Elections Canada was invited by Zaire in April 1991 to study election-related issues. In addition, the ICHRDD made a contribution of \$72,000 to the Zairian Human Rights League. Our Head of Mission assisted in the effort to bring together the country's human rights associations. Three members of this amalgamation took part in the seminar of the Canadian Human Rights Foundation, held in Prince Edward Island. Finally, in a news release dated December 10, 1992, The Honourable Monique Landry expressed her and the Government's serious concerns about the country's deteriorating situation. Among these concerns were the revocation of Prime Minister Tskisekedi's provisional government and the use of force to try to compromise the democratic process.

### POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- What is the most appropriate channel for consideration by CHR of the situation in Zaire (Currently under review within confidential procedure 1503, Zaire was earlier the object of a less than successful experience under the Advisory Services item) ?

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